

Lesson 17: How to Colorize a Vector Object and Add it to an Existing Document

This lesson is directly tied to the previous one but has more application than just creating landscape effects. This technique is simple to understand and will add power to your creativity in other projects you will work on in the future.

The process of changing the color of an object is simple. Just cover with a white rectangle; move this layer below-and-to-the-right of the object (so it's a Child layer). Then, click on the child layer to change the color of the object.

This is what we're going to do in this lesson: We're going to change the color of a tree vector shape and then add it to our landscape design we created in the previous lesson. We'll even use the exact same colors, thanks to the RGB Hex codes.

The name of the image we'll be using for this lesson: **Lesson 17 - Tree**. Here's the current hyperlink to this image:

<https://pixabay.com/vectors/tree-landscape-plant-leaf-leaves-1751178/>

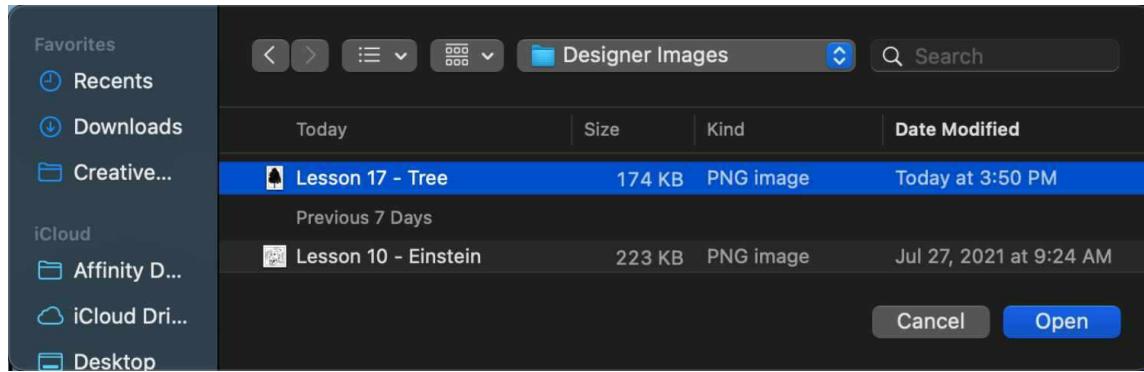
The Steps we're going to take to do this effect are four:

1. *Upload* the **Tree** vector object.
2. *Cover* it with a **white rectangle**.
3. *Move* the **rectangle** layer ***below-and-to-the-right*** of the **Tree** layer.
4. *Change* its **color** using the Color Panel.

Ready to start?

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+O** to *open* an image.

Upload the **Tree** vector object by *finding* the **image** and double-clicking on it or *clicking* on it (as in the below image) and then *press* the **Open** button.

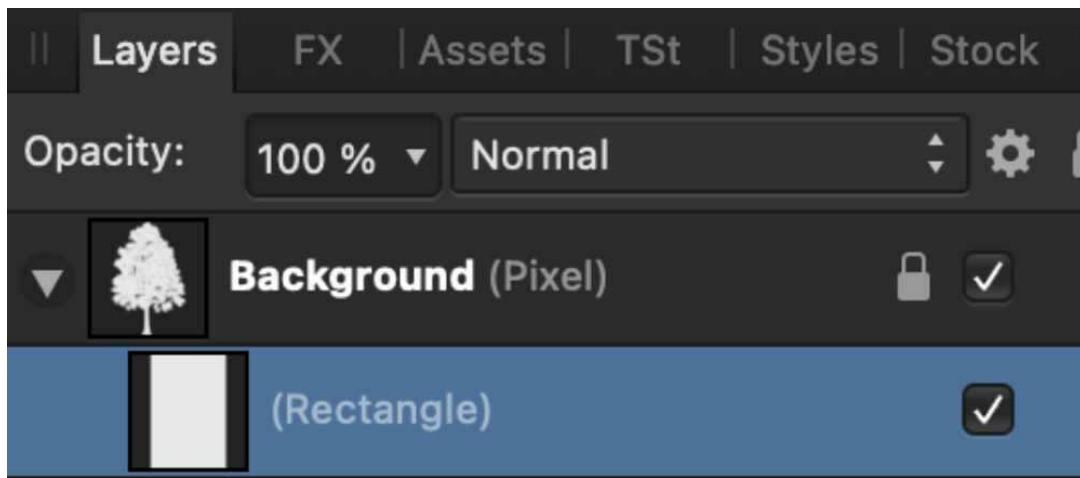


*Click on the **Rectangle Tool** and cover the **entire tree** with a rectangle shape.*

*Set the **Foreground color** to **white** if it isn't already. If it is not white, simply **press the X key**. This is a great shortcut key to change the position of the Fill & Stroke in the Colors Panel (and at the bottom of your Tools - if you have two columns).*

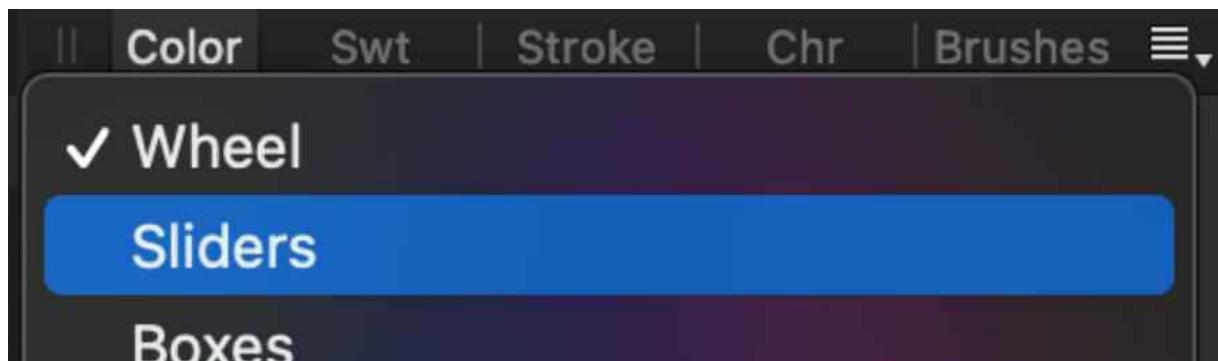
*Click & drag the **Rectangle layer** below-and-to-the-right of the tree layer. Notice the position of the Rectangle layer and how it is now a Child layer of the Tree layer.*

This is what your Layers Panel should look like after doing this:

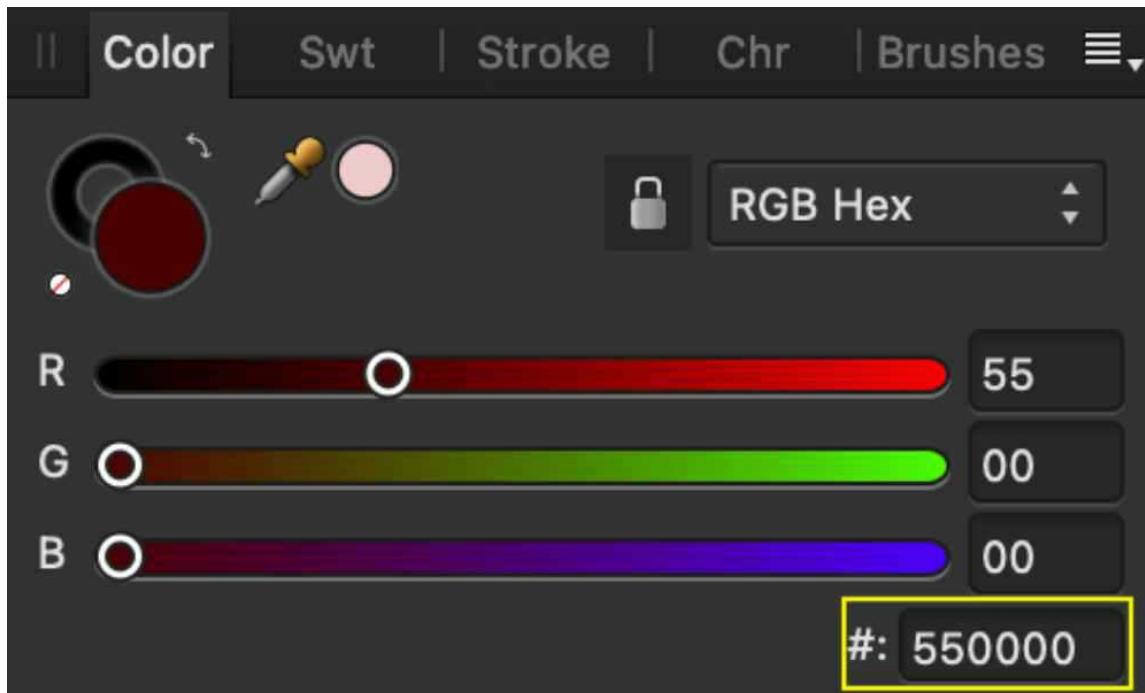


*Go to the **Color Panel** and **click** on its **menu icon** in the far-right corner (the "burger").*

*Click on **Sliders** and **change** the **Color Format** pop-out window to **RGB Hex**. It might already be this as it's the last color format we used.*



Go to the **RGB Hex value box** and type the **code** for our foreground color from the previous lesson (**#550000**). This will cause the tree to have the exact same color as the first contour from our landscape design, which is what we want.



Stop. Let's talk about what we're about to do. We're going to go back to our finished landscape document and add trees to the front two contours.

Here are the RGB Hex codes per contour:

- 1st Contour **#550000**
- 2nd Contour **#820000**
- ~~3rd Contour #BE0000~~
- ~~Sky Area #D6AFAF~~

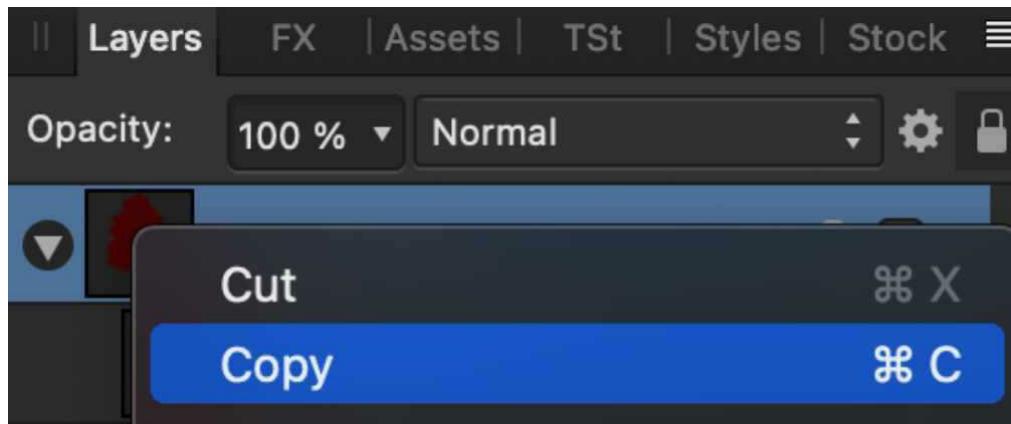
We want to add trees to the 1st and 2nd Contour. So, to do this all we have to do is change the RGB Hex code for the first two contours (**#550000** & **#820000**). We put lines thru the two contour colors we don't need

When you work on other projects that use this same technique, simply make sure the object's color fits the contour's color it's placed on. This is why we love knowing the different codes for every color space.

So, let's continue the lesson. By now, our tree is the correct color for the first contour.

Go to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the top **Background layer** (not the child layer) so it's highlighted in blue. This is the layer we'll be copying and pasting in the **Landscape with History** document.

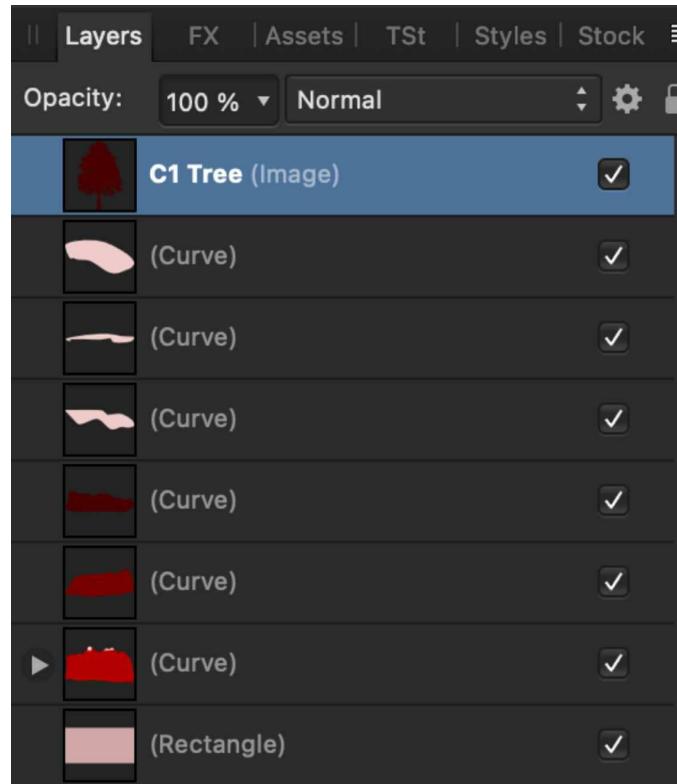
Right-click on the **top layer** and *choose* **Copy** from the pop-out window (see this image below).



Click on the **tab** for the **Landscape with History** document we worked on in the last lesson and make sure no layer in its Layer Panel is selected by *pressing* the **Esc** button on the keyboard.

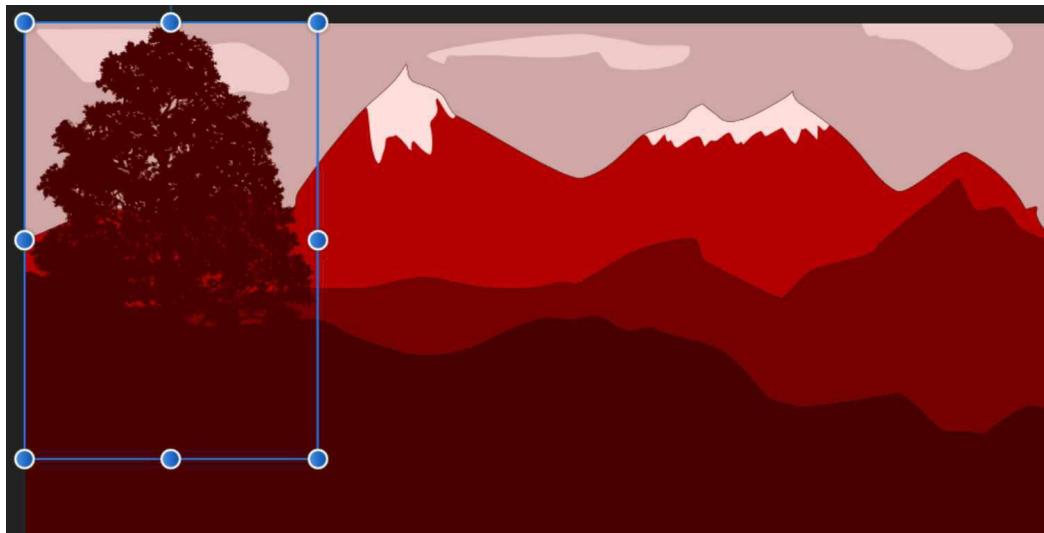
Right-click the **mouse button** and *press* **Paste** to *paste* the tree into the document. Its layer should be at the top of the Layers Panel. If it isn't, click & drag it to the top.

Double-click on the **top layer** and *rename* it **C1 Tree**. Renaming it will be helpful because we're about to make a lot of these trees and we want to differentiate these from the C2 Trees.



This process of adding trees to a contour and their resizing and placing of is a completely subjective process. To shorten this lesson, we'll add five trees to the first contour and five trees to the second. Hopefully you'll remember the lesson on resizing objects by using their blue nodes, because we're about to do a lot of that now.

This is what our document looks like after we've added the first tree. To us, the size of the tree looks nice. Maybe you'd like the perspective to be further away. If that's the case, then your first tree needs to be smaller.



To add the additional trees, we're going to duplicate this first tree one time and then resize the duplicated tree. Then, we'll use one of the three ways to duplicate a layer shape three more times.

These are the three ways we can duplicate a layer shape:

1. *Press **Ctrl/Cmd+J**.*
2. *Right-click on the **layer** you want and then select **Duplicate** from the pop-out window.*
3. *Hold-down the **Alt** or **Ctrl/Cmd** button and *click* on the **shape** in the document you want to duplicate & *drag* the magically **duplicated shape** where you want it in the document. It's not real magic, but to us it seems so.*

Note: Always make sure your tree object is selected and its layer is highlighted in blue before you try to duplicate it, or you use the shortcuts above.

*Add the **four duplicated trees** to your image.*

Attention: We recommend you go to the Toolbar and turn off Snapping. This is because as you are repositioning the duplicated trees, the Snapping tool may make this process difficult.

Check out what our landscape now looks like after we added the five trees to the first contour.



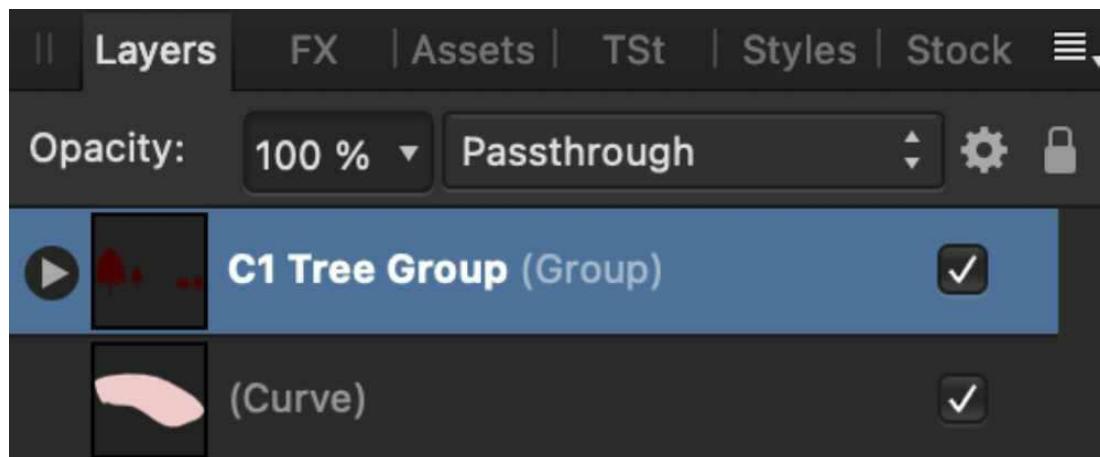
Let's tidy up our Layers Panel by adding all of the **C1 Tree** layers in one group. We'll use the shortcut **Ctrl/Cmd+G** to group them.

*Click on the **top C1 Tree layer** and then while *holding-down* the **Shift key** click on the **bottom C1 Tree layer**. This will select all of them.*

*Press **Ctrl/Cmd+G** to *group* them into one layer.*

*Double-click on the **(Group) layer** and *rename* it **C1 Tree Group**.*

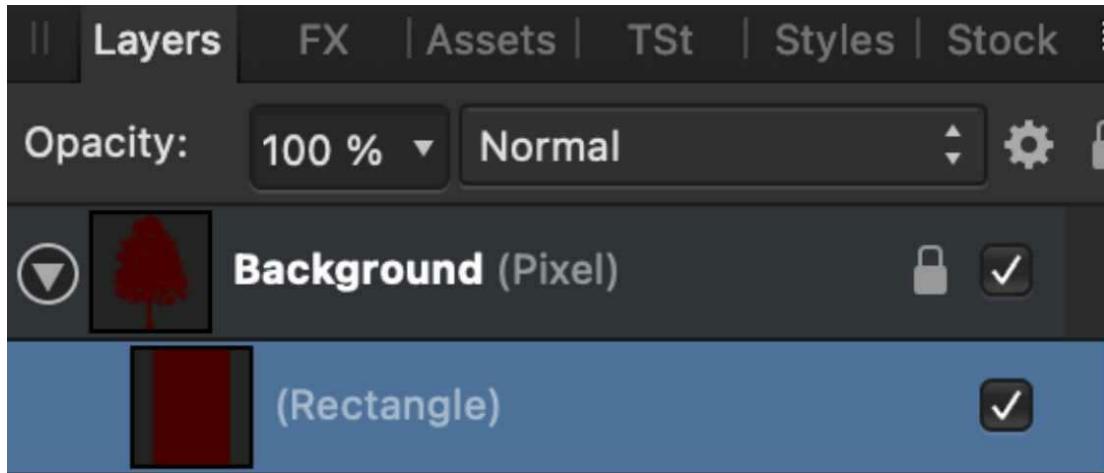
This is what the top of the Layers Panel should look like now.



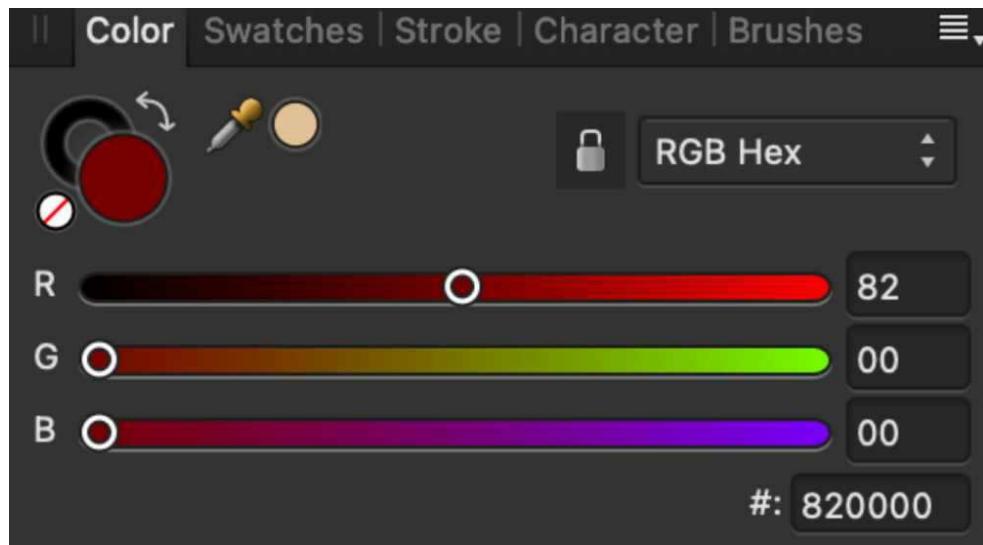
Next, we need to go back to our Tree image, not this landscape design, and change its color on that tab.

Go to the **top of the canvas** where the tabs are located and *click* on the **Lesson 17 - Tree** tab so the tree is in front of us again. This is where we first changed the color of the tree to match the RGB Hex color of the first contour.

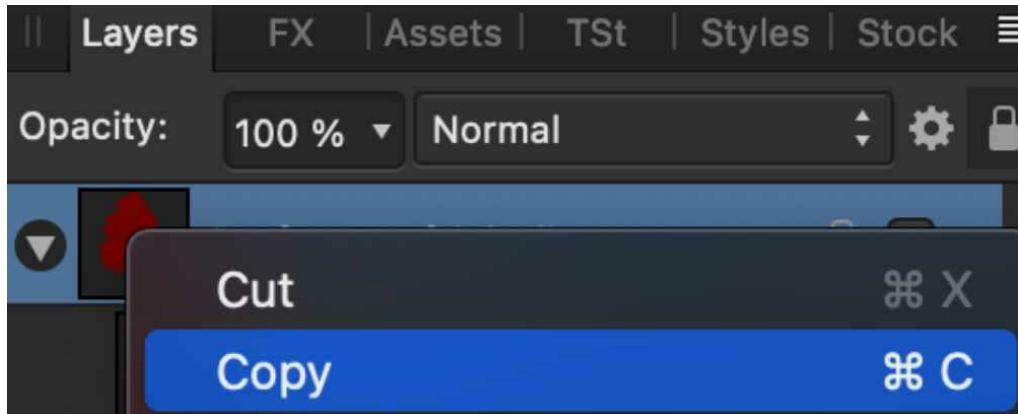
Go to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the **bottom child layer** so it's highlighted in blue (see our image). This is the layer we use to recolor the tree. If you try to recolor the top tree layer, nothing will happen.



Go to the **Color Panel** and *type* **820000** in the Hex code value box (see the yellow rectangle below). This is the color for the 2nd Contour.



Click on the **top Background layer** so it's highlighted in blue and then *right-click* your **mouse button** and *select* **copy** from the pop-out window.



Click again on the **Landscape with History** tab so our beautiful mountain design is again in front of us.

Click one time on the **canvas** (not the document) so no layers in the Layers Panel are selected.

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+V** to *paste* the new tree shape into the mountain design. Its layer will be at the top of the Layer Stack. If it isn't, click & drag its layer there now.

*Double-click on its **layer** and *rename* it **C2 Tree** (see this image below).*

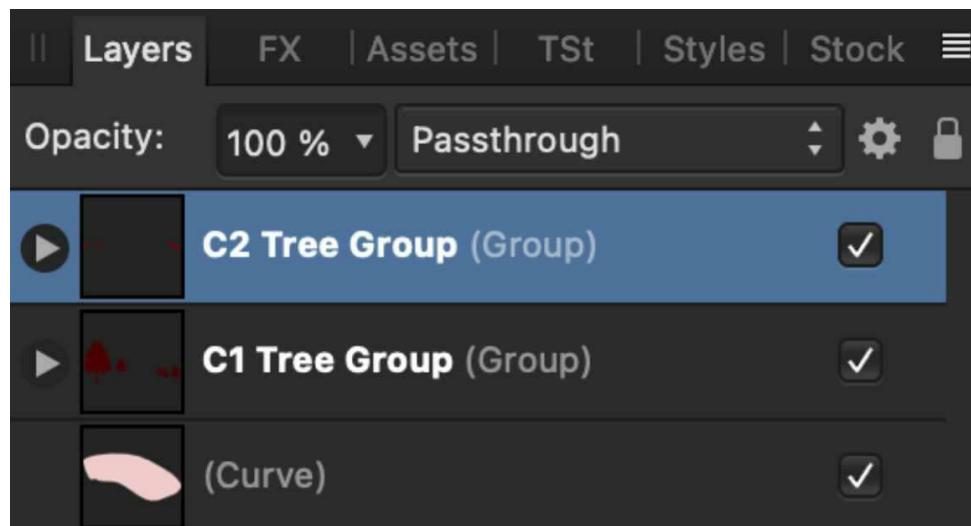


Resize this **tree shape** so it's the size you want it for the second contour in the mountain design. When you have the first tree where you want it, try using the duplicate shortcut of holding-down the Alt or Ctrl/Cmd buttons and click & drag out a copied tree to a new position.

Note: Remember to zoom into the second contour so resizing and

repositioning these new trees is as simple and precise as possible.

When you're done adding the additional five trees, go to the Layers Panel and group all of the C2 Tree layers into one group named C2 Tree Group. You already know how to do this, so this is what the Layers Panel will look like when you're done. We'll just show the first three layers to conserve space in this book.



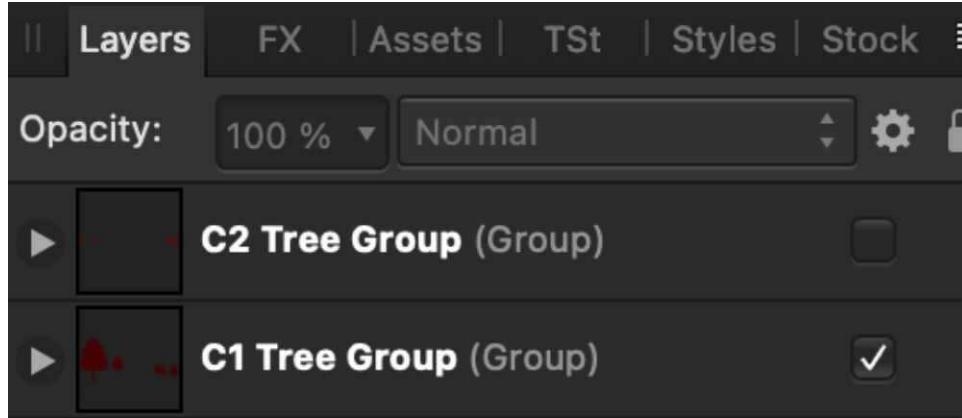
This is what our landscape image looks like after we added five trees to each of the first two contours. Sorry if it's a bit fuzzy. Contact us and we'll send you our work for free.



We think the mountain design looks much better with the trees added to it.

But maybe it'd look better without the C2 trees. Let's see.

Go to the **Layers Panel** and *uncheck* the **top layer** and then look at our image and you decide which you like better.



Done. You now know how to create a flat landscape design and how to add shapes to it with corresponding colors to match the parts of the landscape. That's a lot. Good job!

Note: We're going to continue to use this landscape for the next lesson where we'll learn how to take colors from another image and apply it to our landscape design. So, please just turn the page and we'll continue our learning.

Finished. This ends this lesson.

Lesson 18: How to Steal Colors from Any Source

Have you ever fallen in love with a photo's colors and wished you could use those colors in your work? If so, then this next lesson is for you.

In this lesson, we're going to take the color grading from a photo of our favorite Instagram couple and add it to our beautiful landscape image from the previous lesson. Once you learn how to do this, you can then very easily apply this method to every image or design you create.

Ready to get started?

*Upload the **image** for this lesson named **Lesson 18 - GypsyTribe** from the Designer Images folder we can send to you. You can also go to their Instagram site [_gypsytribe_](https://www.instagram.com/gypsytribe/) and take a screenshot of the image (minus the symbols). Our screenshots are automatically saved to our Desktop. If yours aren't, make sure you remember where your screenshots are saved.*

You need to know the location of this image for the next step. We're going to be going back to the Landscape document and we'll be working there for the rest of this lesson.

*Click on the **Landscape with History** tab so the mountain design is once again in front of us and click on the **Swatches Panel** in the Colors Studio (see yellow rectangle in the below image).*